

**APPENDIX A**  
**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION**



United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
FAIRBANKS FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICE  
101 12<sup>th</sup> Ave., Box 19, Room 110  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
November 12, 2002



BLM #11:40 11/14/02

Mr. Dave Yokel  
Bureau of Land Management  
Northern Field Office  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3899

Re: Exploratory Oil Drilling;  
National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska

Dear Mr. Yokel:

This responds to your request for information addressing biological resources pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). This information is being provided for use in evaluating ConocoPhillips Alaska's (CPA) application for an exploratory drilling permit within the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPR-A). CPA plans on drilling 1-2 new wells during the upcoming 2002-2003 winter. Wells are slated to be drilled on ice pads covering 23 acres each. The proposed drilling sites are located in the northeast portion of NPR-A about 15 miles south of Smith Bay.

The proposed project site is within the breeding range of the spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*) which is listed as threatened under the Act. An aerial surveys done in 2001 observed spectacled Eiders at two locations about 10 miles south of Smith Bay.

Based on the proposed project-description and inspection of aerial photographs, the Service concludes that this project is not likely to adversely impact listed species. Although we have limited data on bird activity close to this site, spectacled eiders would likely not be present during rig/ground operations and we anticipate no additional loss of habitat value as a result of the action. Therefore, preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation under section 7 of the Act regarding these projects is not necessary at this time. This conclusion applies only to endangered and threatened species under our jurisdiction. It does not preclude the need to comply with other environmental legislation or regulations such as the Clean Water Act.

Mr. Dave Yokel  
Page 2

Thank you for your cooperation in meeting our joint responsibilities under the Act. If you need further assistance, please contact Jonathan Friday at (907) 456-0499.

Sincerely,

*Ted Swem*

Ted Swem  
Branch Chief  
Endangered Species

[Back to ConocoPhillips EA](#)